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BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE FIFTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1937

BRIDGWATER:
WHITBY, LIGHT & LANE, LTD.,
GEORGE STREET.

BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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BRIDGWATER:
WHITBY, LIGHT & LANE, LTD.,
GEORGE STREET.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Chairman:
Rev. P. T. Pryce-Michell.

Vice-Chairman:
Rev. G. R. Mullens.

Mr. J. Amery.
,, A. H. Anger.
,, W. Bastable.
Captain M. R. Bernard.
Mr. V. W. Biffen.
,, E. T. D. Bond.
,, E. Brewer.
Major E. F. Browning.
Mr. J. Burston.
Rev. L. Bush.
Mr. R. F. Clark.
,, W. A. Coles.
,, G. Cooke.
,, H. C. Daniel.
,, M. H. B. Day.
,, H. S. L. Dewar.
,, F. G. Duckett.
,, W. G. Edmunds.
,, A. J. Edney.
,, E. Fear.
Major J. A. C. Hamilton.
Mr. T. Harding.
,, E. F. Heard.
Mr. T. T. Herniman.
,, W. C. House.
,, O. Keirle.
,, A. D. May.
Dr. V. C. Martyn.
Mr. R. Meade.
,, T. G. Merchant.
,, E. S. Nation.
,, F. Pocock.
Lt.-Col. C. D. Roe.
Rev. C. E. Seamer.
Mr. C. Sellick.
,, R. G. Seymour.
,, J. Shute.
,, J. Slocombe.
,, B. Snow.
,, C. T. Toogood.
Mrs. A. Trott.
Mr. R. Watts.
,, E. T. Westlake.
,, J. Whittle.
,, J. C. M. Wilson.

Clerk of the Council:
H. G. Blay.

Bridgwater Rural District Council Offices,
The Priory,
St. Mary Street,
Bridgwater.

HOUSING AND PLANS COMMITTEE.

Chairman :
Mr. J. C. M. Wilson.

Members :
Mr. A. H. Anger.
,, E. T. D. Bond.
,, G. Cooke.
,, W. G. Edmunds.
,, E. F. Heard.
,, O. Keirle.
,, R. G. Seymour.
,, J. Slocombe.
,, C. T. Toogood.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Chairman :
Mr. R. G. Seymour.

Members :
Mr. F. Amery.
,, R. F Clark.
,, F. G. Duckett.
,, W. G. Edmunds.
Dr. V. C. Martyn.
Mr. A. D. May.
,, E. S. Nation.
,, J. Slocombe.
,, J. Whittle.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

WILBERFORCE THOMPSON,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (LOND.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

VINCENT C. G. CALLEN,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., F.F.SC.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

V. A. W. COUZENS,

C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff :

DUDLEY M. LING.

ARTHUR A. KEMMISH.

Official Address—

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BRIDGWATER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,

THE PRIORY,

ST. MARY STREET,

BRIDGWATER.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1937.

With the exception of an epidemic of Influenza, not of a very serious character, during the early months of the year, the health of the District has been good. The number of notifications received was 20, the same number as last year.

There were 239 births (15 more than in 1936), giving a birth rate of 14.30 per thousand. There were 222 deaths (10 more than in 1936), giving a death rate of 13.48 per thousand.

The rapidly changing legislation has thrown considerable additional work on the Staff in the Public Health Department, but I am pleased to record that the various requirements of the Ministry of Health have been carried out efficiently.

Your obedient servant,

WILBERFORCE THOMPSON.

"Ivy House,"
Bridgwater.
May, 1938.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	86,768
Population (estimated)	16,470
Number of inhabited houses at December 31st, 1937 ..	5,058
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1931)	4,620
Rateable Value at December 31st, 1937	£64,146
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate at end of March, 1937	£236

Bridgwater Rural District Council comprises 36 Parishes, with acreage and population (1931 Census figures) as follows :—

Parish	*Acreage*	*Population*
Ashcott	2382	676
Bawdrip	1898	332
Bridgwater Without ..	2648	294
Broomfield	4080	247
Cannington	4076	944
Catcott	2089	451
Charlinch	615	107
Chedzoy	1519	277
Chilton Polden	1645	346
Chilton Trinity	733	130
Cossington	1309	229
Durleigh	917	89
Edington	2017	317
Enmore	1426	525
Fiddington	1314	148
Goathurst	1673	202
Greinton	881	90
Huntspill	5938	1442
Lyng	1465	290
Middlezoy	2546	510
Moorlinch	1920	214
Nether Stowey	1103	564
North Petherton	10583	3075
Othery	1944	423
Otterhampton	2243	424
Over Stowey	3696	419
Pawlett	3108	426
Puriton	1596	709
Shapwick	3159	271
Spaxton	5261	841
Stawell	2228	240
Stockland Bristol	827	98
Thurloxton	563	144
Wembdon	2297	636
Westonzoyland	3321	857
Woolavington	1708	286

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Agriculture, Dairy Work, Brick and Tile Manufacture, Withy Culture and Basket Making, whilst a number are employed in Cement Works, the Building Trade, and in Garages and Petrol Stations. None of these callings has been found to be prejudicial to the health of the workers.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1937	
	MALES	FEMALES
Civilians only— ALL CAUSES	110	112
1. Typhoid Fever, etc.		
2. Measles		
3. Scarlet Fever		
4. Whooping Cough		
5. Diphtheria		
6. Influenza	3	6
7. Encephalitis Lethargica		
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever		
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2
10. Other Tuberculosis diseases	1	
11. Syphilis		
12. General Paralysis of insane, etc.	1	
13. Cancer	11	17
14. Diabetes	4	1
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	12	8
16. Heart Disease	20	17
17. Aneurysm		
18. Other circulatory diseases	4	6
19. Bronchitis	5	6
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	5
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
22. Peptic Ulcer	4	1
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (2 years and over)		
24. Appendicitis	1	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver		
26. Other liver diseases		3
27. Other Digestive diseases	3	3
28. Nephritis	3	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis		1
30. Other Puerperal diseases		
31. Congenital causes, etc.	8	1
32. Senility	7	18
33. Suicide	2	1
34. Other violence	3	1
35. Other defined causes	9	9
36. Ill-defined causes	1	
37. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		1
Special Causes (included in No. 35)— Small Pox, Poliomyelitis, Polioencephalitis		
Death of Infants under 1 year — Total	8	5
Legitimate	7	5
Illegitimate	1	
Live Births — Total	119	120
Legitimate	112	112
Illegitimate	7	8
Stillbirths — Total	2	6
Legitimate	1	5
Illegitimate	1	1
POPULATION FOR 1937	16,470	

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child Birth	From Sepsis ..	1
	From other causes	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :—
Legitimate 50.20. Illegitimate 4.18 .. .. Total 54.38

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under two years)	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Deaths from stated causes and at various ages under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	4			1	5					5
Congenital Defects ..	2			1	3	1				4
Diarrhoea										
Whooping Cough										
Other Causes						1	3			4
Total ..	6			2	8	2	3			13

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

(*a*) Medical. One Medical Officer of Health, holding Diploma D.P.H., London, part-time.

(*b*) One whole-time Chief Sanitary Inspector, Certified Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board (London Certificates) and Fellow of the International Faculty of Sciences, who is also Designated Officer appointed under the various Housing Acts, Inspector of Meat and other Foods, Petroleum Acts Inspector, and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

(*c*) One whole-time Additional Sanitary Inspector, Certified Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board, who is also Plans and Buildings Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor.

(*d*) Two Clerks in the Public Health Department.

2. *Nursing in the Home.* Nature of the arrangements in the area :—

(*a*) General. The District Nursing Association at work in the District is under the control of the County Council. The Bridgwater Rural District is divided into eleven areas, with a Nurse

who is also a qualified Midwife in each area. People living in Bridgwater Without, Wembdon, Chilton Trinity and Chedzoy are attended by Nurses from the Mary Stanley Home, Bridgwater.

(*b*) Infectious Diseases. In case nursing is required for Infectious Diseases, this is provided by the Sanitary Authority at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

3. *Midwives.* In addition to the District Nurses abovementioned, three Midwives are practising in the area. No arrangements have been made for the employment of or subsidy to Midwives by the Local Authority.

4. *National Health Insurance.* The Local Authority has no part in the administration of this service.

5. *Poor Law Medical Out Relief.* The Local Authority has no part in the administration of this service.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.* The Public Health Laboratory under the County Council undertakes the examination of clinical material, water, milk and foodstuffs.

7. *Legislation in Force.* List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, &c., made by the Local Authority and approved by the Local Government Board under the date 3rd April, 1900, including certain Urban powers vested in the Local Authority :—

Clearance of Footways, Removal of Refuse, &c.
Prevention of Nuisances.
Common Lodging Houses.
Houses Let in Lodgings.
New Streets and Buildings.
Slaughter-Houses.
Cemeteries.
Offensive Trades.

Sec. 14 of Part II of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Sec. 171 of Public Health Act, 1875.

Sec. 163 of Public Health Act, 1875, to be in force in the contributory places of Bawdrip, Chedzoy, Middlezoy, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, and Westonzoyland, being Parishes already provided with fire appliances.

Also Powers conferred on the Council by order of the Local Government Board.

Section 27 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 is still not adopted.

The Public Health Act 1936 came into force on 1st October, 1937.

The Council have adopted new Building Byelaws under the Public Health Act 1936.

8. *Hospitals.* There are no Hospitals under the control of the Sanitary Authority. The following are used by the Residents of the District :—

Bridgwater General Hospital. Seventy-one beds for medical and surgical patients. There are special departments for X-Ray, Dental, Ophthalmic and Massage.

Maternity. The Mary Stanley Nursing Home at Bridgwater, under the control of the County Council, has beds for 12 cases. There are also cots for 7 infants.

Tuberculosis. The Quantock Sanatorium, under the control of the County Council, has accommodation for 63 patients.

Venereal Diseases. There is no Hospital provision for venereal diseases. A Venereal Disease Dispensary, under the control of the County Council, is available for people living in the Bridgwater Rural District.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia cases are admitted to the Bridgwater General Hospital.

The Somerset Small-pox Hospital is at Cossington. It has four wards, and accommodates 20 patients, with a separate building for nurses.

With regard to Hospital accommodation for the treatment of cases of infectious diseases, the Council is a constituent Authority of the Taunton and District Joint Hospital Board and the Axbridge Joint Hospital Committee. The parishes within the Rural District are divided between these respective isolation hospital areas as follows :—

Axbridge. Ashcott, Bawdrip, Catcott, Chilton Polden, Cossington, Edington, Greinton, Huntspill, Moorlinch, Pawlett, Puriton, Shapwick, Stawell and Woolavington.

Taunton. Bridgwater Without, Broomfield, Cannington, Charlinch, Chedzoy, Chilton Trinity, Durleigh, Enmore, Fiddington, Goathurst, Lyng, Middlezoy, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Othery, Otterhampton, Over Stowey, Spaxton, Stockland Bristol, Thurloxton, Wembdon and Westonzoyland.

9. *Maternity and Nursing Homes.* None in the District.

10. *Maternal Mortality.* Cases of maternal deaths and cases of Puerperal Fever are investigated by the Medical Officers of the County Council.

11. There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

12. There is no Institutional provision for the care of Mental Defectives.

13. *Ambulance Facilities.*

(*a*) For Infectious cases. None.

(*b*) For Non-Infectious cases and accidents use is made of the Bridgwater Ambulance in connection with the St. John's Ambulance Association, which is available for the District on payment of a small fee. The Ambulance Stretcher in use is a "Mark 2" regulation Army pattern.

14. There are no Clinics or Treatment Centres under the control of the Local Authority.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. There have been no new schemes provided during the year, but schemes have been approved for extensions to serve the parishes of Fiddington, Stockland Bristol and parts of the Parishes of Otterhampton and Spaxton. The Council are considering a Scheme for the supplying of water to Over Stowey, and this matter is still under discussion. New works have been carried out at Willoughby in the parish of Broomfield, to convey water from the existing supply to Willoughby reservoir. This necessitated the laying of some 550 yards of cast iron main. The Council are also considering the supplying of water to Higher Merridge. Negotiations are proceeding for a piped supply to the parish of Chilton Trinity—this parish falls within the Bridgwater Corporation's water area—and the Council proposes entering into an agreement with the Corporation for guaranteeing the supply of water to this parish. In order to afford an improved supply to various parts of the area the Council have considered and approved a scheme for the duplicating of their leading mains from Dancing Hill, North Petherton, to Knowle, and it is proposed to make application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to borrow in order that the Council may proceed forthwith with a length from Dancing Hill to Huntworth Gate, in the parish of North Petherton.

The question of supplying an adequate supply of water to all parts of the district continued to receive the attention of the Council, and several extensions to existing schemes were carried out in the year under review, with the result that there are now only a few isolated areas not properly supplied.

As the result of activities in housing and dairy premises inspection work during 1937 several premises not previously supplied with suitable or sufficient water were connected up to the Council's mains. Sampling of all the public and private supplies were undertaken at more frequent intervals last year, and the reports of the Public Analyst upon those tested indicated that all were satisfactory. The Sanitary Inspectors also took several samples from wells and springs in various parts of the district, and the results of the analyses of these are given on page 29 of the attached Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sewage Disposal. During the year the Council have constructed a new sewer from the Parkersfield disposal works to the main road at Heathfield, and thence in a westerly direction for a distance of 300 yards. In addition to this the sewage works at North Petherton are in process of being reconditioned and enlarged, and this work is being carried out by direct labour and under the supervision of a Resident Engineer.

A comprehensive scheme for the sewering of the parish of Cannington was prepared and approved, and Ministry of Health local inquiry into application to borrow for the purpose of this scheme is awaited.

A comprehensive scheme for the sewering of the parish of Ashcott was prepared but decision deferred pending result of the carrying out of experimental works.

A comprehensive scheme for the sewering of the parishes of East and West Huntspill was prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health. Decision of the County Council on application for contribution towards the cost is now awaited.

Instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineer to prepare a comprehensive scheme to serve the parish of Nether Stowey, and the scheme is awaited.

A scheme has also been prepared and approved for the Eastern portion of the parish of Bridgwater Without but is deferred pending development of this area.

Rivers and Streams. No action was necessary under this heading during 1937.

RAINFALL AT ASHFORD PUMPING STATION, 1937.

No. of days rain fell	..	159
The Wettest Month	..	July
The Driest Month	..	June
Greatest Fall in 24 hours		2.62 in. on July 15th

Month	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		No. of days with 0.01 in. or more
	Inches	Inches	Day	
January	4.69	0.75	17	20
February	4.75	0.60	7	20
March	4.57	0.82	10	20
April	2.39	0.40	13	17
May	1.61	0.35	26	11
June	0.69	0.26	13	5
July	4.91	2.62	15	11
August	0.99	0.42	10	7
September	3.57	1.00	9	12
October	3.70	0.75	22	11
November	1.98	0.62	22	10
December	2.65	0.72	12	15
Totals ..	36.50			159

Closet Accommodation. As will be seen on reference to the list under "Housing Defects" on page 16, a number of existing sanitary conveniences were improved, either in the matter of the provision of light or ventilation, or in the conversion from insanitary privies to pail, chemical, or water-flushed pedestal pan closets complete with a septic tank, modern drainage and filtration of all liquid matter.

Scavenging. The question of providing improved methods for the collection of house refuse on a comprehensive scale was again given much attention during last year, and consideration of the provisions of a suitable motor vehicle to regularly visit a number of the parishes at frequent intervals had so far advanced by the end of the year that it is hoped the Council will now adopt a definite scheme to serve a large portion of the district. Some opposition to this general scheme was advanced by reason of the expenditure involved but it is generally felt that with the increasing number of new dwellings now being erected and occupied in so many different parts of the areas liable to be served, the time is now opportune for some more definite action in providing such an essential service; and investigations of complaints received indicate that the public

demand for improved house refuse collection is amply justified. Indiscriminate dumping of house refuse must be regarded as highly detrimental to public health, quite apart from its disfigurement of the countryside. It is the duty of every Sanitary Authority to make suitable provision for the collection and proper disposal of house refuse within their area. The existing provisions made can certainly be improved upon, and the expense involved in serving so small a portion of the whole district as four parishes cannot be regarded as an economical arrangement.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Smoke Abatement. No action was found necessary under this heading.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations. A Knacker's Yard is the only offensive trade in your area, and particulars of inspections made will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of public Elementary Schools are satisfactory. The Head Teachers supply the Medical Officer of Health with a list of all absentees due to infectious disease, and when necessary all the scholars are examined.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 *and* 1928. There are no premises in the District in which rag flock is manufactured or used.

Shops. No action was taken under this heading during 1937.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public or privately-owned swimming pools within the area.

HOUSING.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. No action under this heading was found necessary during 1937.

Full particulars of the number of inspections made and action taken are set out in the undermentioned statistics. The more detailed work, both in regard to the visiting of properties and the clerical duties involved, continued to claim much attention, apart from the time spent by the Housing and Plans Committee in discussing and reviewing the propositions of persons concerned. Despite the boom in building works of all descriptions, owners

readily had the various requirements of notices served complied with within the periods of time allowed on the notices served. No legal procedure was found necessary. The question of procuring suitable sites in various parts of the area for the erection of Council houses to accommodate persons displaced or in overcrowded dwellings, had so far advanced during the year that up to date 14 houses have been erected, and 66 are in course of erection. The acquisition of more sites is now under consideration.

Housing Statistics.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year.

(i)	With State Assistance :	
	(a) By the Local Authority	None
	(b) By other bodies or persons	None
(ii)	Otherwise	75

Housing Inspections :—

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	240
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	277
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and reported under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	79
4		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	179

Housing Action.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of *informal* action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A. *Proceedings under Sections* 9, 10 *and* 16 *of the Housing Act* 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	98
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	48
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts* :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	63
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	44
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	0

C. *Proceedings under Sections* 11, 13 *and* 26 *of the Housing Act* 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13
(3)	Number of houses rendered fit by Owners and Undertakings given cancelled	3
(4)	Number of Undertakings given not to occupy	4
(5)	Number of Undertakings given not to render fit ..	30

HOUSING DEFECTS RECORDED DURING 1937 AND ENUMERATED IN NOTICES SERVED UPON OWNERS FOR THEIR ABATEMENT.

Defective Roofs	158
,, Guttering and down pipes	91
,, Yard pavings	71
,, Drainage and other Sanitary fittings	103
,, Floors and staircases and absent handrails	287
,, Wall and ceiling plaster	181
,, Doors	63
,, Windows	136
,, Chimney Stacks	82
,, Stoves and Coppers	84
,, Exterior Walls	102
Insufficiently lighted and ventilated rooms	334
W.C. apartments not lighted or ventilated	80
Insanitary privy conveniences	46
Damp walls	132
No Food stores provided	91
No Sinks provided	74
Insufficient Water supply	66
Defective Wash-houses	78
Defective Outbuildings	37
Low Ceilings	132
Bedrooms intercommunicating	55
Landing Bedrooms	49
No Sculleries	42

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

It is gratifying to note the number of cases where Owners have taken advantage of the provisions of this Scheme, and details of the number of applications received during 1937 are as follows :—

(1)	Number of applications received for financial assistance under the Acts during the year	11
(2)	Number of such approved	11
(3)	Number of properties reconditioned	3
(4)	Number of works in hand at end of 1937	8

The work entailed in discussing propositions, and in the supervision of reconditioning works occupied much time, but the saving of properties which otherwise would have been condemned and demolished has been well worth the results achieved. The applications received concerned cottages which were the subject of Representation Notices served by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and were situated in the parishes of Bromfield (1), Cannington (1), Charlinch (1), Chilton Trinity (1), Cossington (2), East Huntspill (1), Fiddington (2), Over Stowey (1), and Pawlett (1).

COMPARATIVE RECORDS OF HOUSING INSPECTION WORK from 1931–1937 (inclusive).

Year	Total number of housing inspections	Total number of re-inspections	Number of Notices served	Number of Notices complied with
1931	231	1245	147	75
1932	442	1088	427	281
1933	515	1130	275	233
1934	245	735	131	128
1935	1160*	432	112	83
1936	473	707	223	72
1937	277	720	175	105

* This figure includes 1109 inspections carried out for the purposes of scheduling properties for attention under the Council's second housing programme.

OVERCROWDING STATISTICS.

Overcrowding. Appended is a tabulated statement of the Council's action under Part I of the 1935 Housing Act. Whilst it must be admitted that the standard laid down in this Act is a low one, it is interesting to note the figures set out, and to record the few cases of overcrowding the measuring up of sleeping rooms in your area reveals. To deal with cases notified the Council has formulated a special house-building plan to accommodate the needs of their area.

(*a*)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	57
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	57
	(iii)	Number of units dwelling therein	371½
(*b*)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(*c*)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	34
(*d*)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(*e*)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The detailed inspection work of all registered milk-traders' premises was continued during 1937, as far as possible with the present inadequate staff, and many improvements carried out both in regard to the structural condition of the cowsheds and dairies and the general condition of the premises.

A record of these inspections is set out in the attached Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on pages 22-23.

A detailed list of all milk samples taken during 1937 is given on the attached Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on pages 24-28.

(1) *Milk Supply.* The revised records kept in the registers in my Department are as follows :—

Number of	Producers	754
,,	Retailers	17
,,	Producer-retailers	181
,,	Accredited Producers	12
,,	Other Graded Producers ..	14

The number of Supplementary Licences granted to Graded Milk Retailers during 1937 was as follows :—

(i)	Pasteurised	1
(ii)	Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	1
(iii)	Tuberculin Tested	2
(iv)	Accredited	2

It is to be regretted that more producers of ordinary milk have not so far availed themselves of the opportunities afforded under the Accredited and Graded Milk Schemes. To date there are 26 of this class of trader licenced by the County Authority, and it is hoped that before long many more names will swell the list. The number of producers and retailers of ordinary milk granted Certificates of Registration under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, during 1937 was as follows :—

(i)	As Producers of Ordinary Milk	24
(ii)	As Retailers of Ordinary Milk	2
(iii)	Premises registered as a Dairy	7

Inspections of all these traders' premises were carried out and reports upon same made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector before approval.

Seven new cowshed buildings and dairies were erected in addition to improvements to existing premises during the past year in the following parishes :—Bridgwater Without (1), Bawdrip (1), Catcott (2), Chedzoy (2), Greinton (3), West Huntspill (1), Nether Stowey (1), Wembdon (1), Westonzoyland (1).

No. of Improvements carried out to existing Dairy Premises :—
Woolavington (2)

On pages 23-24 of his attached Report, Mr. Callen also gives details of inspections of cowsheds and dairies, with number of notices served and the results achieved.

No licence was refused or revoked during 1937.

Comparative figures of inspections of milk-traders' premises for the years 1931–1937 (inclusive) are as follows :—

Year	Inspections
1931	90
1932	55
1933	163
1934	98
1935	202
1936	470
1937	457

All milk samples are analysed by the County Analyst at the County Hall, Taunton.

(2) *Meat and other Foods.* See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(3) *Adulteration.* The Council are not a Local Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

(4) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Food* are submitted to the County Council Laboratory at Taunton.

Nutrition. No action was taken under this heading during 1937.

Shellfish (Molluscan). There are no layings and no places in the district from which shellfish are marketed.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL.

The following were reported to me during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	8	Erysipelas	2
Pneumonia	6	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Diphtheria	1	Puerperal Fever	1

Nineteen cases of Tuberculosis were also notified, 13 being Pulmonary and 6 non-Pulmonary.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined at the County Council Laboratory at Taunton. No use has been made of the Schick Test in Diphtheria.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

There are no facilities in the District for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons. The disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by spraying and fumigation.

Notified Diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year 1937.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	8		
Diphtheria	1	1	
Pneumonia	6		
Erysipelas	2		
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	1

Analysis of the Total Cases of Notifiable Diseases and Deaths under the following Age Groups.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over
Scarlet Fever			1	2	2	1	1	1				
Deaths												
Diphtheria						1						
Deaths												
Pneumonia						1			1	2	1	1
Deaths									1		2	3
Erysipelas											1	1
Deaths												
Puerperal Sepsis									2	1		
Deaths									1			

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases						
Notified	Treated At Home	Treated In Hosp'l	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'y		Respiratory		Non-Resp'y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1								
1—5								
5—15	2	1	2	1			1	
15—25	2	2	1	1		1		
25—35	2	1			1			
35—45		1						
45—55		2	1		1	1		
55—65								
Over 65					1			
Totals	6	7	4	2	3	2	1	

All the deaths from Tuberculosis were in cases that had been previously notified. The notification of Tuberculosis cases has a ways been prompt and it has not been necessary to take any action to enforce it.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act 1925 *Section* 62.

No action has been taken by the Council under this Section.

YEAR 1937

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health I have compiled and submitted to him full particulars of the work carried out under my supervision in the Public Health Department during the year 1937 (January 1st to 31st December, inclusive). Correct records in detail have been kept in the various registers and other books provided, and regular and frequent reports made upon all branches of the work, both to the Council and to Dr. Thompson. The year has been a very busy one, particularly in regard to housing inspections, milk sampling, and meat and other foods inspection; and much time has had to be spent by myself out of normal office hours owing to inadequate assistance provided in order to keep the work up to date.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

The following matters received attention during the past year, necessitating 422 visits. Of the number stated 75 were abated.

Defective Cesspools	*Offensive Accumulations	Fouled Watercourses	Dirty Premises	Bad or suspected Water Supply	Overcrowding	Animals kept in unfit places	Sewage and Drainage Defects or Nuisances	Defective Sanitary Conveniences or Fittings	Tents & Van Dwellings	‡Housing Complaints	Miscellaneous	
—	8	10	1	12	2	5	17	15	3	53	21	Total 147

* Other than recorded under Cowshed inspections.
‡ In addition to those mentioned under "Housing Defects."

COMPARATIVE RECORDS OF NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS DEALT WITH FROM 1931–1937 (inclusive).

Year	No. of Nuisances and Complaints	No. of Calls
1931	47	75
1932	273	298
1933	207	248
1934	242	319
1935	292	541
1936	219	532
1937	147	422

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

(1) *Meat.* There are at present 20 registered and licenced slaughter-houses within the Council's area, and every effort was made during last year to regularly attend at all these to inspect the meat slaughtered. On several occasions special visits had to be made during the summer evenings, and upon receipt of special notification of casualty slaughtering, or when animals were killed for any reason at times other than the recognised days. Regular monthly reports upon all meat condemned were made to the Public Health and Sanitary Committee. All animals intended for human consumption are stunned with an approved type of humane killer before slaughter. I have again to record that the butchers have remained loyal and carried out their obligations in the best possible spirit. The standard of the quality of meat slaughtered was well maintained, and all premises were kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition throughout the year.

There is no meat marking scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 in force in your area.

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 thirty-nine persons were licenced to slaughter after the usual interviewing.

RECORDS OF INSPECTIONS.

Routine Visits	635
After special notices received	21
Occasional Slaughtering (including casualty cases inspected) ..	6

RECORD OF MONTHLY MEAT INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1937.

January	43	July	49
February	40	August	69
March	83	September	57
April	77	October	30
May	45	November	68
June	40	December	61

LIST OF CARCASES AND ORGANS INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Beasts	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
1. Number of whole carcases inspected	425	318	750	714	254
2. Number of whole carcases condemned	3	2	4	4	2
3. Percentage of whole carcases condemned for :					
(*a*) Tuberculosis ..	0.701%	—	0.533%	—	—
(*b*) Other diseases ..	—	0.625%	—	0.560%	0.787%
4. Number of organs inspected	1394	864	2514	2185	609
5. Number of organs condemned	90	—	74	111	53
6. Percentage of organs condemned for :					
(*a*) Tuberculosis ..	3.71%	—	2.68%	—	—
(*b*) Other diseases ..	2.73%	—	0.19%	5.08%	8.70%

The total number of all animals slaughtered during the year for human consumption is not known.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES AND OTHER INFECTIONS FOUND PRESENT IN THE ORGANS EXAMINED.

	Tuberculosis	Distomatosis	Cirrhosis	Cavernous Angioma	Necrosis	Abscesses	Nephritis	Oedema	Fatty Degeneration	Bruising	Pneumonia	Pleurisy	Emaciation	Congestion	Strongylus Rufescens	Totals
Beasts	52	14	4	4	2	3	1	2	1	2	3	2				90
Pigs	67							1	1	2	3					74
Sheep														1	110	111
Lambs															53	53

TOTAL QUANTITY OF MEAT CONDEMNED.

The total quantity of meat condemned during last year was as follows :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases	1	11	2	0
Organs	1	7	2	13½
Total ..	2 tons	19 cwts.	0 qrs.	13½ lbs.

COMPARATIVE RECORDS OF MEAT CONDEMNED FOR THE YEARS 1931–1937 (inclusive).

Year	No. of Inspections	Meat Condemned: Whole Carcases	Meat Condemned: Fore & Hind Quarters	Meat Condemned: Organs
1931	471	6	—	144
1932	670	21	2	345
1933	569	10	8	357
1934	404	7	2	146
1935	440	13	3	127
1936	662	22	8	181
1937	662	15	4	328

Knacker's Yard. These premises were visited 19 times during 1937 and found to be kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition. They are situated in Dunball Drove, Puriton, and some long distance from habitation or other buildings of any sort.

(2) *Milk.* Records of visits made during 1937 are as follows :—

Cowshed and Dairy premises inspected	97
,, ,, ,, reinspected	360
	457

Number of Notices served :—

For defective floors	4
,, ,, drainage	2
,, Limewashing	3
,, Improvements in light and ventilation	1
,, Removal of manure accumulation	7
,, Fouled approach yards	6
,, Defective approach yards	3
,, Dirty floors	11
Total	37

As a result of these inspections and Notices served a number of alterations and improvements were carried out both in regard to buildings and in the methods of production, storage and distribution.

The sampling of ordinary and graded and accredited milks very considerably increased during 1937, as will be seen upon reference to the attached table of comparative records. These samples were procured in the early morning and were taken from all parts of the district to ensure that information upon unsatisfactory production could be readily ascertained. Upon receipt of unsatisfactory reports from the Public Analyst many further visits had to be made. Regular monthly reports upon all samples were presented to the Public Health and Sanitary Committee of the Council. The summer months of 1937 proved a most trying time for all producers, and necessitated many special interviews and advice to milkers as to the best methods to be adopted to effect an improvement. On more than one occasion I have visited farms as early as 6 o'clock in the morning in addition to further calls during the afternoon milking hours to specially watch milking operations. The farmers and cowmen generally evinced more readiness to comply with the regulations laid down with the result that second samples taken showed improvements on all counts.

It will be seen upon reference to the list of graded and accredited milk samples, many of these taken during the summer months showed somewhat varying results, but directly the colder weather set in improvements were at once noticeable. It is a difficult proposition for the farmer to properly cool supplies where summer milking so often takes place in fields some distance from the farm, or where water supplied from the Council's mains may quite early in the day be of a tepid temperature. No efforts were spared to correctly carry out all instructions as to the methods of sampling and in the sending of them to the laboratories as quickly as possible, but as the Authorities do not allow ice to be packed in the dispatch cases these efforts were somewhat nullified with the results stated. The Council and the Medical Officer of Health frequently discussed the receipt of adverse analysis reports with the Licencing Authority; and it should be noted that such results were not peculiar to this district but applied throughout the whole county.

The following is a record of samples taken during 1937 :—

(1) For tubercle bacilli—

Parish	Date	No. Taken
Ashcott	3/6/37	1
Bridgwater Without ..	4/2/37	3
Cannington	16/9/37	2
Chedzoy	15/7/37	3
Cossington	18/11/37	3
Edington	3/6/37	1
Middlezoy	25/2/37	3
North Petherton	18/3/37	4
North Petherton	16/9/37	1
Stawell	22/4/37	3
Stawell	3/6/37	1
	Total	25

(*Note.* Tubercle bacilli was found in one sample, and appropriate action at once taken by the County Council).

(2) For graded and accredited milks—

Parish	Date	Results
Ashcott	2/2/37	Satisfactory
	9/3/37	,,
	26/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	17/8/37	,,
	9/9/37	,,
	5/10/37	,,
	28/10/37	,,
	25/11/37	Satisfactory
Bridgwater Without	2/2/37	Satisfactory
	18/2/37	,,
	23/2/37	Unsatisfactory
	4/3/37	,,
	23/3/37	,,
	23/3/37	Satisfactory
	8/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	Unsatisfactory
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	24/4/37	,,
	20/5/37	,,
	20/5/37	,,
	2/6/37	Satisfactory
	10/6/37	Unsatisfactory
	10/6/37	,,
	1/7/37	,,
	13/7/37	,,
	20/7/37	,,
	29/7/37	,,
	5/8/37	,,
	17/8/37	,,
	24/8/37	,,
	2/9/37	,,
	9/9/37	,,
	21/9/37	Satisfactory
	21/9/37	,,
	5/10/37	Unsatisfactory
	6/10/37	,,
	28/10/37	,,
	28/10/37	Satisfactory
	2/11/37	,,
	25/11/37	Unsatisfactory
	15/12/37	Satisfactory
Cannington	13/1/37	Satisfactory
	14/1/37	,,
	9/3/37	,,
	9/3/37	,,
	13/7/37	,,
	13/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	5/8/37	,,
	24/8/37	Satisfactory
Chedzoy	21/1/37	Satisfactory
	21/1/37	,,
	11/3/37	,,

Parish	Date	Results
Chedzoy	11/3/37	Satisfactory
	13/5/37	,,
	13/5/37	,,
	15/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	17/7/37	,,
	5/8/37	Satisfactory
	5/8/37	Unsatisfactory
	26/8/37	,,
	16/9/37	,,
	16/9/37	,,
	12/10/37	Satisfactory
	20/10/37	,,
	11/11/37	,,
	11/11/37	,,
Durleigh	13/1/37	Satisfactory
	2/3/37	,,
	6/5/37	,,
	8/7/37	,,
	9/9/37	,,
	2/11/37	,,
Edington	18/2/37	Satisfactory
	6/4/37	,,
	29/7/37	,,
	23/9/37	Unsatisfactory
	14/10/37	Satisfactory
	21/10/37	Unsatisfactory
	11/11/37	Satisfactory
	7/12/37	,,
Enmore	13/1/37	Unsatisfactory
	2/2/37	,,
	18/2/37	Satisfactory
	23/3/37	,,
	1/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	20/7/37	,,
	17/8/37	,
	9/9/37	Satisfactory
	2/11/37	Unsatisfactory
	25/11/37	Satisfactory
Goathurst	2/11/37	Unsatisfactory
	25/11/37	,,
Greinton	11/3/37	Satisfactory
	11/3/37	Unsatisfactory
	13/4/37	,,
	13/4/37	Satisfactory
	6/5/37	,,
	8/6/37	,,
	8/6/37	Unsatisfactory
	17/6/37	,,
	1/7/37	,,
	20/7/37	,,
	10/8/37	,,
	17/8/37	,,
	24/8/37	,,
	9/9/37	,,
	23/9/37	Satisfactory
	12/10/37	,,
	30/11/37	,,
	30/11/37	,,

Parish	Date	Results
Huntspill	13/1/37	Satisfactory
	3/2/37	,,
	18/2/37	,,
	23/3/37	,,
	6/5/37	,,
	1/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	8/7/37	Satisfactory
	20/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	17/8/37	,,
	8/9/37	Satisfactory
	9/9/37	,,
	12/10/37	Unsatisfactory
	2/11/37	Satisfactory
	4/11/37	,,
	4/11/37	Unsatisfactory
	25/11/37	Satisfactory
North Petherton ..	13/1/37	Satisfactory
	2/2/37	,,
	2/2/37	,,
	18/2 37	,,
	18/2/37	,,
	16/3/37	,,
	23/3/37	,,
	6/4/37	,,
	20/5/37	Unsatisfactory
	2/6/37	Satisfactory
	1/7/37	,,
	13/7/37	,,
	20/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	17/8/37	,,
	21/9/37	Satisfactory
	23/9/37	,,
	2/11/37	Unsatisfactory
	18/11/37	Satisfactory
	25/11/37	,,
Over Stowey	18/2/37	Unsatisfactory
	2/3/37	,,
	24/3/37	Satisfactory
	20/4/37	,,
	15/6/37	Unsatisfactory
	6/7/37	Satisfactory
	26/8/37	Unsatisfactory
	21/9/37	Satisfactory
	21/10/37	,,
	7/12/37	,,
Pawlett	29/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	24/8/37	Satisfactory
	21/9/37	,,
Puriton	2/2/37	Satisfactory
	9/3/37	,,
	6/5/37	,,
	8/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	20/7/37	,,
	17/8/37	,,
	9/9/37	,,
	4/10/37	Satisfactory
	5/10/37	,,
	4/11/37	,,

Parish	Date	Results
Stawell	3/2/37	Satisfactory
	11/2/37	,,
	18/2/37	,,
	6/4/37	,,
	6/4/37	,,
	13/4/37	,,
	8/6/37	,,
	13/7/37	Unsatisfactory
	29/7/37	Satisfactory
	5/8/37	Unsatisfactory
	10/8/37	,,
	24/8/37	Satisfactroy
	26/8/37	Unsatisfactory
	8/9/37	,,
	23/9/37	,,
	12/10/37	,,
	14/10/37	Satisfactory
	20/10/37	Unsatisfactory
	4/11/37	,,
	11/11/37	Satisfactory
	25/11/37	,,

Number of samples taken = 194.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

with percentages of Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory Sample Results.

Satisfactory	55.2%
Unsatisfactory	44.8%

COMPARATIVE RECORDS OF INSPECTIONS OF MILK TRADERS' PREMISES FROM 1931–1937 (inclusive).

	Premises visited	Notices served
1931	90	196
1932	55	127
1933	163	84
1934	98	78
1935	202	93
1936	470	81
1937	457	37

These inspections total include revisits to premises to see that the Council's various requirements were carried out.

WATER.

The following is a record of samples taken from public and private supplies, and also as a precautionary measure from wells :—

Parish	Date	Results Satisfactory	Doubtful	Unsatisfactory
Ashcott	26/7/37			1
	30/9/37			1
	30/9/37			1
	30/9/37			1
Broomfield	1/2/37		1	
	8/4/37	1		
	30/9/37	1		
Cannington	21/1/37			1
	19/7/37	1		
Chilton Trinity ..	3/2/37		1	
	2/12/37			1
Fiddington	25/5/37		1	
	16/11/37		1	
Goathurst	8/4/37	1		
	30/9/37	1		
Nether Stowey ..	8/4/37	1		
	30/9/37	1		
North Petherton ..	26/8/37			1
Over Stowey	23/9/37			1
	23/9/37			1
	8/11/37		1	
	8/11/37	1		
Spaxton	3/2/37	1		
	20/7/37			1
	20/7/37		1	
	20/7/37			1
	26/8/37		1	
	13/9/37			1
Thurloxton	8/4/37	1		
	30/9/37	1		
		11	7	12

Total—30.

In all instances where samples were adversely reported upon further samples were procured after certain suggested improvement works had been carried out. Where the supply from any source was found continually bad appropriate action was taken at once.

COMPARATIVE RECORDS 1931–1937.

Year	Samples taken
1931	8
1932	50
1933	27
1934	44
1935	27
1936	56
1937	30

PLANS AND NEW BUILDINGS.

Mr. Couzens, the Council's Plans and Buildings Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor, supplies me with the following particulars :—

(1) 120 plans of dwelling-houses and other buildings were submitted and approved during 1937, as follows :—

New Houses	75
Alterations and Additions to Houses	21
Private Garages	6
Drainage	3
Miscellaneous	15
Total	120

In each case an adequate and up-to-date system of drainage was installed and supervised both during the course of construction and on completion. The number of these inspections totalled 485.

(2) The Council has control of sewage ditches and tanks in various parts of the district, as follows :—

Ashcott	1	Middlezoy	2
Bawdrip	1	Moorlinch	1
Cannington	2	Nether Stowey	1
Catcott	1	Othery	3
Chedzoy	3	Pawlett	1
Chilton Polden	1	Puriton	1
Chilton Trinity	1	Shapwick	1
Cossington	1	Spaxton	1
Edington	1	Stawell	1
Fiddington	1	Westonzoyland	2
Huntspill	1	Woolavington	2
Lyng	1		

Mr. Couzens reports that this branch of his work was given as much attention as was possible during the year under review.

The sewering and drainage arrangements provided for all the various Housing Schemes of the Council are under the control of the Housing Architect and Surveyor, and these worked satisfactorily throughout the year under review, but suitable provision has been made for connecting all systems to the Council's Main Sewerage Schemes as and when these are laid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Prompt enquiry into all reported cases of infectious disease was undertaken, and disinfections done upon the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health. All possible " contacts " were also visited to check the possibility of the spread of infection. After these visits had been made full particulars of each case were submitted to Dr. Thompson, and any necessary further action promptly taken.

Number of premises visited	22
,, rooms disinfected	15
,, rooms and bedding sprayed	10

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS 1901–1907.

Number of factories inspected and revisited	19
,, workshops ,, ,, ...	13
,, workplaces ,, ,, ...	5
,, outworkers' premises in the district inspected and revisited	3

H.M. Factory Inspector sent notifications of three workshop premises in new occupation during the year, and these were inspected.

Defects found	Number of written Notices issued	Defects remedied
60	23	60

The number of factory and workshop premises totals 155, with the addition of 70 shop premises. The factories and workshops comprise bakehouses, brick and tile works, garages, builders' premises, condensed milk factory, wire rope works, tailors, wicker basket works, boot and shoe repairers, saw mills and cider-making works.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919.

National Rat Week was held from November 1st—6th, 1937. As in former years, considerable attention was given during 1937 to this branch of the Health Services, and the following special Report was presented to the Council immediately following National Rat Week :—

> " Explanatory posters and leaflets were freely distributed throughout the whole of the Council's area during this period, and several special visits were paid to premises in various parts of the district. The Council's refuse dumps were also specially inspected. Results so far indicated can be regarded as satisfactory in every way."

The total number of calls paid in connection with the extermination of rats and mice throughout the year number 86. Several enquiries were received, and advice given with regard to the baiting of premises affected, special care being taken in the recommendations of the various advertised exterminating poisons.

STORAGE AND LICENCING OF PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Petroleum Licences granted during the year			62
Carbide of Calcium Licences granted during the year			13
Amount collected in Licence Fees—Petrol	£39	1	8
Carbide	£3	5	0
Total	£42	6	8

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Housing Inspections	277
,, Re-Inspections	720
Inspection of Meat and other Foods	662
Cowshed and Dairy Inspections	457
Factory and Workshop Premises	37
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease	47
,, ,, ,, Nuisances and Complaints	422
,, ,, ,, Storage of Petroleum and Carbide ..	65
,, ,, ,, Rats and Mice Destruction	86
Miscellaneous Visits (Milk Sampling, Water Sampling, Mosquito Control, and various)	294
Total Calls ..	3067

I have again to express my warm thanks to the Chairman, the Councillors, and to the Medical Officer of Health for their kindly appreciation of the duties I have undertaken during the past year ; and to specially mention the willingness and co-operation at all times so readily displayed by my colleague and the other Staff members.

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT C. G. CALLEN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1938.